



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Solicitation of Nominations for Appointment to the Advisory Committee on Structural Safety of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Facilities

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Office of Construction and Facilities Management, is seeking nominations of qualified candidates to be considered for appointment to the Advisory Committee on Structural Safety of Department Facilities ("the Committee"). In accordance with 38 U.S.C. § 8105, the Committee advises the Secretary on all matters of structural safety in the construction and altering of medical facilities and recommends standards for use by VA in the construction and alteration of facilities. Nominations of qualified candidates are being sought to fill current and upcoming vacancies on the Committee.

AUTHORITY: The Committee was established in accordance with 38 U.S.C. § 8105.

DATES: Nominations for membership on the Committee must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. EST on June 26, 2015.

ADDRESSES: All nominations should be submitted to Mr. Juan Archilla by e-mail at juan.archilla@va.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Juan Archilla, Office of Construction and Facilities Management (CFM), Department of Veterans Affairs, via email at juan.archilla@va.gov, or via telephone at (202) 632-5967. A copy of the Committee charter and list of the current membership can be obtained by contacting Mr. Archilla or by accessing the Web site:

http://www.va.gov/ADVISORY/Advisory_Committee_on_Structural_Safety_of_Department_of_Veterans_Affairs_facilities_Statutory.asp.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Committee was established pursuant to 38 U.S.C. § 8105. The Committee responsibilities include:

- (1) Providing advice to the Secretary of VA on all matters of structural safety in the construction and altering of medical facilities and recommending standards for use by VA in the construction and alteration of facilities.
- (2) Reviewing of appropriate State and local laws, ordinances, building codes, climatic and seismic conditions, relevant existing information, and current research.
- (3) Recommending changes to the current VA standards for structural safety, on a state or regional basis.
- (4) Recommending the engagement of the services of other experts or consultants to assist in preparing reports on present knowledge in specific technical areas.
- (5) Reviewing of questions regarding the application of codes and standards and making recommendations regarding new and existing facilities when requested to do so by VA.

Membership Criteria and Professional Qualifications:

CFM is requesting nominations for current and upcoming vacancies on the Committee. The Committee is composed of five members, in addition to ex-officio members. The Committee is required to include at least one architect and one structural engineer who are experts in structural resistance to fire, earthquake, and other natural disasters and who are not employees of the Federal Government. To satisfy this requirement and ensure the Committee has the expertise to fulfill its statutory objectives, VA seeks nominees from the following professions:

(1) ARCHITECT: Candidate must be a licensed Architect experienced in the design requirements of health care facilities. Expert knowledge in codes and standards for health care and life safety is required;

(2) PRACTICING STRUCTURAL ENGINEER: Candidate must have experience in both new building seismic analysis and design and strengthening of existing buildings in high seismic regions. Expert knowledge of building codes and standards, with a focus on seismic safety, is required. Experience designing for structural resistance to other natural disasters is desired. A licensed Structural Engineer or Professional Engineer with a focus on structural engineering is required;

(3) RESEARCH STRUCTURAL ENGINEER: Candidate must have experience leading experimental and/or computational research in the field of structural engineering to advance building structural performance and/or design methods against natural disasters, such as earthquakes, fire, hurricanes, tornados, etc.;

(4) GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEER: Candidate must be an expert in earthquake geotechnical engineering and foundation engineering, with experience in the topics of liquefaction, earthquake ground motions, soil-structure interaction, and soil

improvement. A practicing, licensed Professional Engineer with a focus on geotechnical engineering is required; and

(5) FIRE SAFETY ENGINEER: Candidate must be an expert in fire protection engineering and building codes and standards, in particular related to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). A practicing, licensed Professional Engineer with expert knowledge in fire protection systems and experience with life safety requirements is required.

Prior experience serving on nationally recognized professional and technical committees is also desired.

Requirements for Nomination Submission:

Nominations should be type written (one nomination per nominator). Nomination package should include: (1) a letter of nomination that clearly states the name and affiliation of the nominee, the basis for the nomination (i.e. specific attributes which qualify the nominee for service in this capacity), and a statement from the nominee indicating a willingness to serve as a member of the Committee; (2) the nominee's contact information, including name, mailing address, telephone numbers, and email address; (3) the nominee's curriculum vitae, and (4) a summary of the nominee's experience and qualification relative to the *professional qualifications* criteria listed above.

Membership Terms

Individuals selected for appointment to the Committee shall be invited to serve a two-year term. At the Secretary's discretion, members may be reappointed to serve an

additional term. All members will receive travel expenses and a per diem allowance in accordance with the Federal Travel Regulation for any travel made in connection with their duties as members of the Committee.

The Department makes every effort to ensure that the membership of its Federal advisory committees is fairly balanced in terms of points of view represented and the committee's function. Every effort is made to ensure that a broad representation of geographic areas, gender, racial and ethnic minority groups, and the disabled are given consideration for membership. Appointment to this Committee shall be made without discrimination because of a person's race, color, religion, sex (including gender identity, transgender status, sexual orientation, and pregnancy), national origin, age, disability, or genetic information. Nominations must state that the nominee is willing to serve as a member of the Committee and appears to have no conflict of interest that would preclude membership. An ethics review is conducted for each selected nominee.

Dated: June 5, 2015.

Jelessa Burney,
Federal Advisory Committee Management Officer.
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